## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 02972 180114Z ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 EB-08 USIA-06 COME-00 TRSE-00 /044 W

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R 180105Z FEB 78 FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8425 AMEMBASSY ROME

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ROME FOR FODAG

E O 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, MX
SUBJECT: MEXICAN VIEWS ON AGENDA FOR FOURTH SESSION OF
THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

**REF: STATE 037553** 

SUMMARY: GOM HAS NO OBJECTION TO LIMITING AGENDA TO A FEW WELL-DEFINED TOPICS. THEIR MAIN INTEREST IS IN AGRARIAN REFORM, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND IN INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION. GOM VIEWS ON WFC ARE UNDERGOING REVIEW. END SUMMARY.

1. FOREIGN RELATIONS OFFICIAL LIC HUGO DIAZ THOME BEGAN DISCUSSION BY NOTING THAT BOTH THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATIONS IN MEXICO HAD CHANGED SINCE MEXICO HAD FIRST TAKEN PART IN THE WFC. WITHOUT ELABORATING ON THE CHANGES IN THE POLITICAL SITUATION, HE NOTED THAT IN 1974 MEXICO'S AGRICULTURE WAS IN SUCH A POOR STATE THAT LARGE IMPORTATIONS OF EVEN BASIC FOODSTUFFS WERE REQUIRED. NOW, THOUGH, WITH A FEW EXCEPTIONS THE COUNTRY WAS VIRTUALLY SELF-SUFFICIENT AND COULD BE A SIZEABLE EXPORTER WITHIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 02972 180114Z

FIVE YEARS. ALL OF THIS CHANGED ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND REQUIRES A COMPLETE REEVALUATION OF MEXICO'S ROLE IN THE WFC.

2. DIAZ THOME THINKS THAT GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY SOME COUNTRIES (HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED ALGERIA) WOULD TURN THE JUNE MEETING INTO A PURLY POLITICAL EVENT AND CAUSE

THE FOCUS TO TURN FROM THE IMPORTANT TASK OF ATTEMPTING TO RESOLVE THE PRESSING ISSUE OF FOOD. HE PERSONALLY FAVORED THE IDEA OF LIMITING THE AGENDA TO TWO OR THREE ITEMS AND THOUGHT THAT THE GOM WOULD SUPPORT SUCH AN EFFORT. HE PROMISED A DEFINITIVE REPLY BEFORE THE ROME MEETING IN LATE FEBRUARY.

3. HE THINKS THAT THE ISSUES OF MOST INTEREST TO MEXICO WOULD BE AGRARIAN REFORM, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION. HE THOUGHT THAT SOME COUNTRIES MIGHT DISAGREE AS TO THE IMPORTANCE OF AGRARIAN REFORM BUT THAT THE LATTER TWO TOPICS SHOULD BE OF UNIVERSAL INTEREST. THOMPSON

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## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, FOODS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 18 feb 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MEXICO02972
Document Source: CORE

**Document Unique ID: 00** 

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A

Errors: N/A **Expiration:** 

Film Number: D780075-0855

Format: TEL From: MEXICO

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780237/aaaabfnr.tel

Line Count: 75 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1ded07d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION IO

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 78 STATE 37553

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 05 may 2005 **Review Event:** Review Exemptions: n/a

**Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: N/A Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3549380 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: MEXICAN VIEWS ON AGENDA FOR FOURTH SESSION OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

TAGS: EAGR, MX, WFC To: STATE ROME

Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/1ded07d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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